

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, CH

SUBJECT: US AMATEUR SPORTS COMPETITION WITH THE PRC

REF: PEKING 1916

1. AMERICAN AND PRC AMATEUR ATHLETES MAY COMPETE IN FOLLOWING TEN SPORTS BECAUSE PRC IS MEMBER OF CONTROLLING INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION: BASKETBALL, CANOEING, FENCING, ICE HOCKEY, ROWING, SPEED SKATING, TABLE TENNIS, VOLLEYBALL, WEIGHTLIFTING, AND WRESTLING.

2. IN SOME OTHER SPORTS A "RELATIONSHIP" WHICH MAY INCLUDE COMPETITION IS PERMITTED BETWEEN MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS. WE BELIEVE THAT IN THIS CLASS CAN BE LISTED BADMINTON AND GYMNASTICS AMONG OTHERS.

3. SPECIAL SITUATIONS EXIST IN SEVERAL OTHER SPORTS, MOST IMPORTANT AND PROMISING OF WHICH IS TRACK AND FIELD. GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL BODY OF TRACK AND FIELD, INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR ATHLETIC FEDERATION (IAAF) MET IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEPTEMBER AT ROME AND PASSED RESOLUTION WHICH WE BELIEVE

NOW PERMITS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF IAAF TO APPROVE MEMBERS
HOLDING MEETS WITH NON-MEMBERS UPON SUBMISSION OF REQUEST
BY MEMBER FOR EVENT WHICH MIGHT HAVE TO REMAIN NON-
COMPETITIVE, I.E. NON-SCORING. AAU IS INTERESTED IN
REVIVING POSSIBILITY OF US AMATEUR TRACK AND FIELD TEAM

VISITING PRC AND WE ARE WORKING WITH AAU TO LEARN WHETHER
OUR UNDERSTANDING OF IAAF DECISION IS CORRECT AND WHETHER
IAAF WOULD GRANT SUCH REQUEST FOR WAIVER IF AAU ASKED
FOR IT. (OF COURSE WE WOULD NOT USE WORD "WAIVER" IN
DISCUSSING MATTER WITH CHINESE, AND IF NECESSARY COULD
CONSIDER THIS A PROCESS OF APPROVAL FOR PROPOSED VISIT.)
SWIMMING AND DIVING APPEARS TO BE ONE IN WHICH AMATEUR
US TEAM COULD NOT NOW VISIT CHINA, BUT IN VIEW OF FACT
THAT US TEAM DID SO IN 1973 IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE AN
ARRANGEMENT COULD BE WORKED OUT.

4. FYI: WE KNOW OF CURRENT INTEREST IN MEETS WITH PRC
IN FOLLOWING SPORTS: BADMINTON, GYMNASTS, WRESTLING,
VOLLEYBALL, AND TRACK AND FIELD. WE ARE TALKING WITH AAU
ABOUT TRACK AND FIELD NOW, OTHERS HAVE APPROACHED
DEPARTMENT EARLIER AND HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO COMMUNICATE
DIRECTLY WITH CHINESE (PRCLO AND ALL CHINA SPORTS FEDERA-
TION) AND WITH NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON UNITED STATES -
CHINA RELATIONS, INC. END FYI. INGERSOLL

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